

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figures 1-11B.

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 3-11B. These sheets, which include Figures 1 and 3-11B, replace the original sheets of Figures 1 and 3-11B.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to based on MPEP §608.02. The Examiner also indicated that Figures 10 and 11 should each be designated as --Prior Art--. The specification and Abstract were objected to because of informalities. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zenichi (JP 1992-116022). Claims 6, 7, 9 and 10 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haruo (JP 1990-98221). Claims 6-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Konegen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,824). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Weiler (U.S. Pat. No. 4,832,161).

In response to the Office Action, the specification, Abstract and drawings have now been amended in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Claim 9 has been cancelled, and claims 6 and 10 have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance.

In response to the rejections, claim 6 has been amended to define an annular adaptor as having a fixing portion, a reversing portion and a folding portion with the reversing portion and the folding portion being thinner than the

fixing portion to facilitate a folding over of the reversing portion at the folding portion. This feature is absent from the cited and relied upon prior art of record.

In the references, the cross section of the adapter is of constant cross section and fails to appreciate the benefit of folding of a reversing portion to a position parallel to a fixing portion by the folding over of a reversing portion. The ease of this operation is increased by defining the reversing portion and the folding portion as being thinner than the fixing portion. Accordingly, the present application should be in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 25, 2008
JCH/JLS:crj

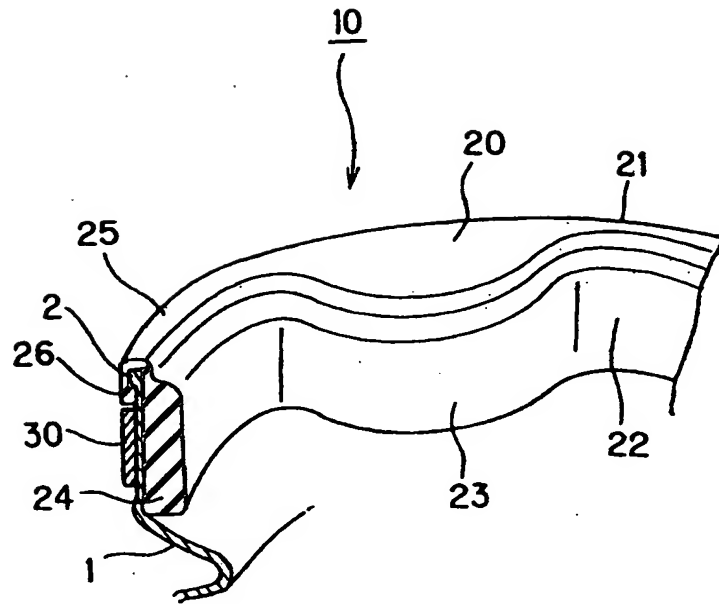


FIG. 1

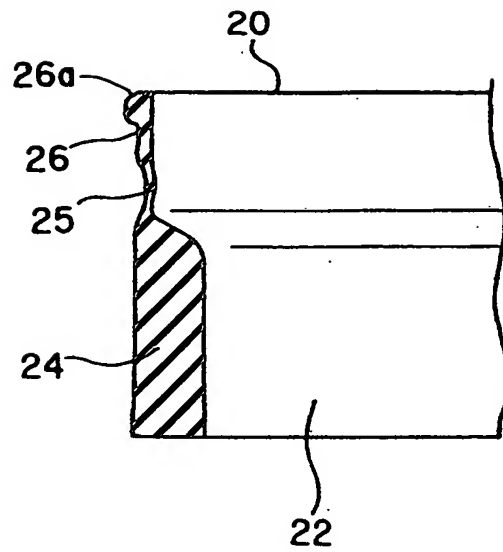


FIG. 3

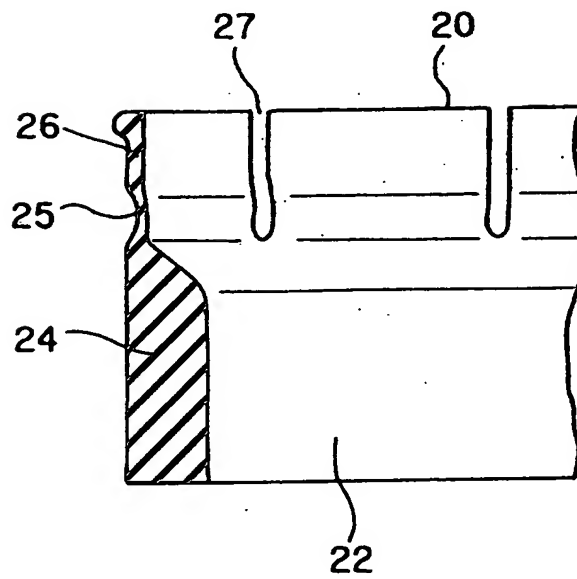


FIG. 4

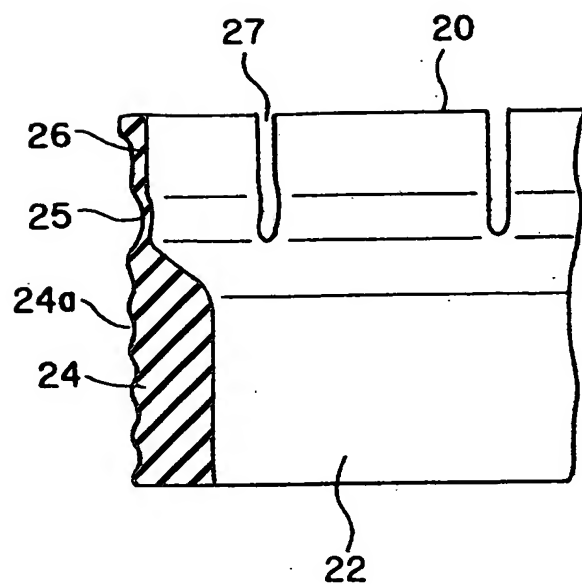


FIG. 5

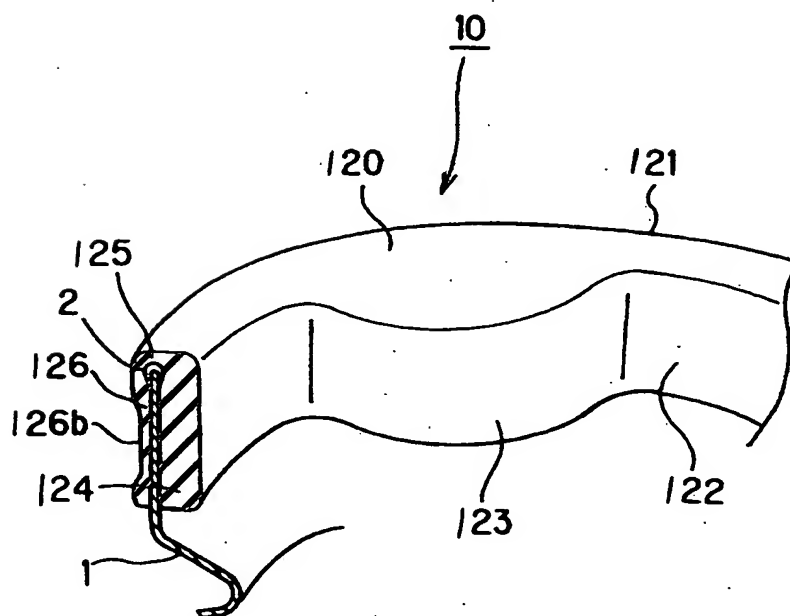


FIG. 6

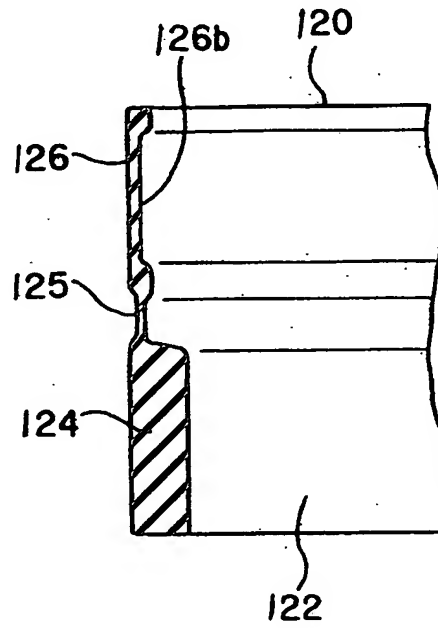


FIG. 7

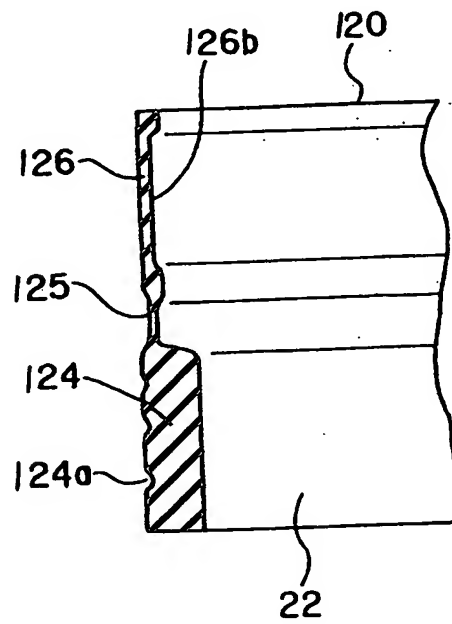


FIG. 8

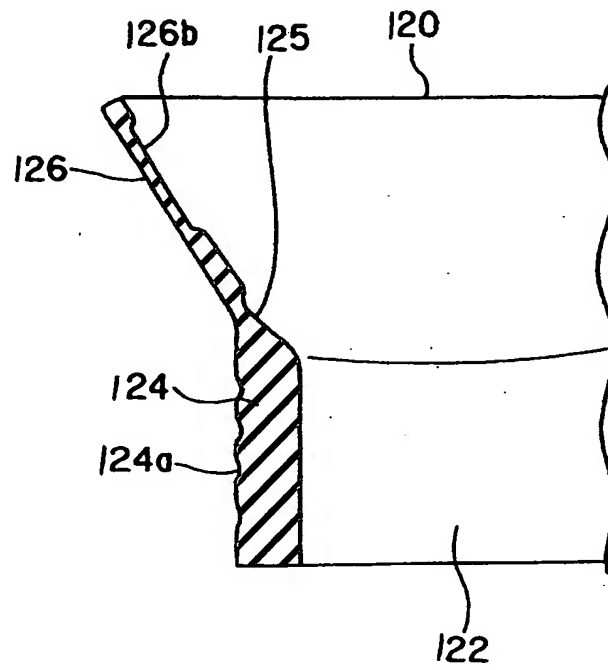


FIG. 9

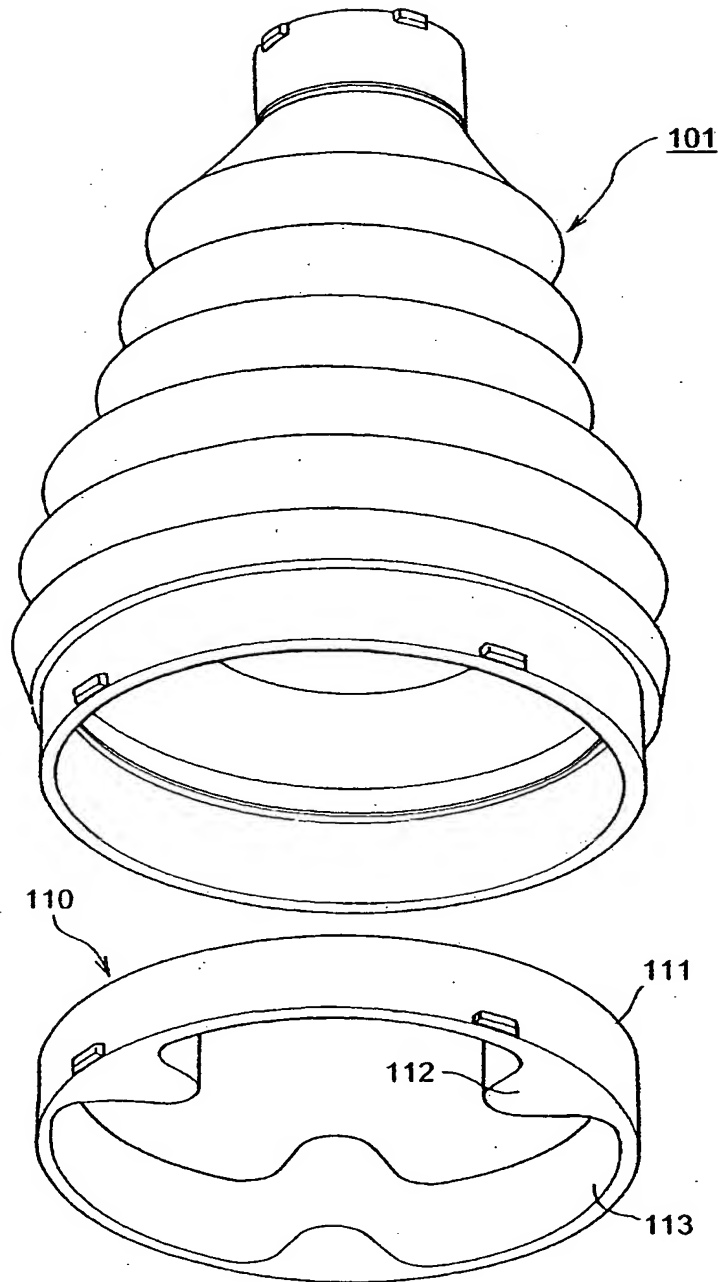


FIG. 10

PRIOR ART

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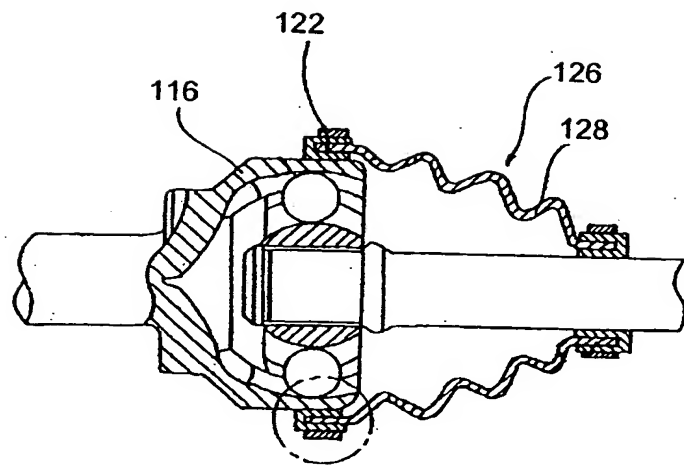


FIG. 11A

PRIOR ART

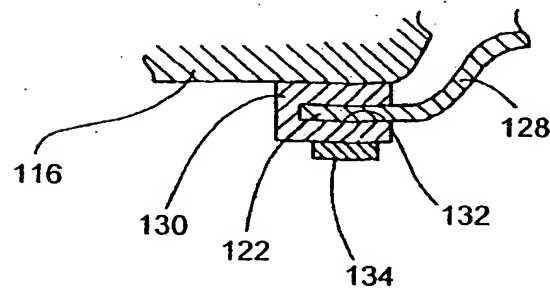


FIG. 11B

PRIOR ART